Ecotourism and the Five Themes of Geography in the Pacific Maritime and Mountain Region

Lesson Overview
Students will use the Five Themes of Geography to assess the viability and impact of ecotourism in a specific area of the Pacific Maritime and/or Mountain region of Canada.

Grade Level
Grades 9-12

Time Required
Two 60-minute lessons

Curriculum Connection
British Columbia – Geography 12

IRP’s:
- The Nature of Geography – Themes
  - Apply the Five Themes of Geography to relevant issues
- Resources of the Earth – Sustainability of Resources
  - Assess the compatibility of human activities and population growth with concepts of sustainability

Link to Canadian National Geography Standards
Essential Element #2 (Grade 9-12) – Places and Regions
- Critical issues and problems of places and regions
- Regional analysis of geographic issues and questions

Essential Element #5 (Grade 9-12) – Environment and Society
- Environmental issues

Geographic Skills #2 (Grade 9-12) – Acquiring Geographic Information
- Systematically locate and gather geographic information from a variety of primary and secondary sources

Geographic Skills #3 (Grade 9-12) – Organizing Geographic Information
- Use a variety of media to develop and organize integrated summaries of geographic information
Geographic Skills #4 (Grade 9-12) - Analyzing Geographic Information
• Make inferences and draw conclusions from maps and other geographic representations
• Use the processes of analysis, synthesis, evaluation and explanation to interpret geographic information from a variety of sources

Geographic Skills #5 (grade 9-12) – Answering Geographic Questions
• Formulate valid generalizations from the results of various kinds of geographic inquiry

The Canadian Atlas
• Pages 20-21 in The Canadian Atlas (or www.canadiangeographic.ca/atlas)

Additional Resources, Materials and Equipment Required
• Computer Lab - Web sites
• Library resources
• Student Worksheet

Main Objective
• Students will examine a region using the Five Themes of Geography to determine if it is a suitable location for an ecotourism operation.

Learning Outcomes
By the end of the lesson, students will be able to:
• Apply the Five Themes of Geography to ecotourism in the Pacific Maritime and Mountain Region
• Assess the viability of an ecotourism operation in this region
• Assess the impact of an ecotourism operation
• Defend a position
• Obtain reliable information from a variety of sources
The Lesson

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Introduction</th>
<th>Teacher Activity</th>
<th>Student Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Introduce students to the Five Themes of Geography (or review if they were previously taught)</td>
<td>• Complete the assignment to introduce the Five Themes of Geography</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Location, Place, Human and Environment Interaction, Movement and Region</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Various lessons are available at the following sites:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><a href="http://www.nationalgeographic.com/resources/ngo/education/themes.html">http://www.nationalgeographic.com/resources/ngo/education/themes.html</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><a href="http://www.education-world.com/a_lesson/lesson071.shtml">http://www.education-world.com/a_lesson/lesson071.shtml</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Introduce the concept of ecotourism</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lesson Development</th>
<th>Teacher Activity</th>
<th>Student Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Hand out the student worksheet to have students identify the characteristics of the Pacific Maritime and Mountain Regions according to the Five Themes of Geography</td>
<td>• Complete the worksheet by conducting research from a variety of sources</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Take students to the computer lab or library so that they can use the Internet and other sources for their research</td>
<td>• Defend your position on the development of an ecotourism operation in your selected region</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Conclusion</th>
<th>Teacher Activity</th>
<th>Student Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Collect the Student Worksheet or have students present their findings to the class</td>
<td>• Hand in worksheet or present findings to the class</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Lesson Extension

- Students can create a Web site or pamphlet to either promote a region for ecotourism or to convince a community that it is not an acceptable proposition.

Assessment of Student Learning

- Teachers can evaluate the worksheet and/or the presentations.
STUDENT ACTIVITY WORKSHEET
Ecotourism and the Five Themes of Geography in the Pacific Maritime and Mountain Region

Student Name: ____________________________________________________________________

Use information about the Pacific Maritime Mountain Region from page 20 of The Canadian Atlas (or www.canadiangeographic.ca/atlas) to answer the following questions:

Introduction:
• What is ecotourism?
_____________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________
• What are the advantages of promoting ecotourism?
_____________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________

Task:
Using the Five Themes of Geography, assess the viability of an ecotourism operation in the Pacific Maritime and/or the Mountain Region.

Method:
Choose a location within the region illustrated on page 20 of The Canadian Atlas (or www.canadiangeographic.ca/atlas) that you feel would be suitable for ecotourism.

General Location: ________________________________________________________________

Three criteria used to determine this location:
1. _____________________________________________________________________________
2. _____________________________________________________________________________
3. _____________________________________________________________________________

In order to assess the viability of this location for ecotourism, use the information in the atlas, or Canadian Atlas website, as well as further research to create explanatory charts or tables as indicated. Be sure to include current economic information as well as groups that might support or oppose an ecotourism operation. Some possible resources are:

Web Sites: http://atlas.gc.ca
           http://www.hellobc.com
           http://www.touryukon.com

Other: Explore Our Maps, The Canadian Oxford School Atlas

Canadian Council For Geographic Education
Five Themes of Geography

LOCATION: Where is it?

Create an explanatory chart or table

PLACE: What is it like there?

Create an explanatory chart or table

HUMAN AND ENVIRONMENT INTERACTION: How do (can) humans modify, adapt to and depend on the environment?

Create an explanatory chart or table

MOVEMENT: How do (can) we move people and goods in this area?

Create an explanatory chart or table

REGION: What characteristics make this area unique?

Create an explanatory chart or table

CONCLUSION:

- Is this a suitable location for an ecotourism operation? If yes, what activities would you suggest and why?
- If no, what are the arguments you would use against the development of an ecotourism operation?